

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 9-11 and 12 as follows:

Claim 1 (original): An electro-cauterizing cannula assembly for use with a powered liposuction device having a hand-holdable housing provided with a reciprocation means reciprocable within said hand-holdable housing and power supply terminals for supplying a radio-frequency (RF) power signal to said electro-cauterizing cannula assembly during liposuction operations, said electro-cauterizing cannula assembly being operably connectable to said hand-holdable housing and comprising:

a hollow inner cannula having a distal end and a proximal end and an inner suction aperture about said inner cannula distal end, said inner cannula proximal end further including an outlet port and a continuous passageway which communicates said inner suction aperture with said outlet port;

a hollow outer cannula having a distal end and a proximal end and ~~on~~ an outer suction aperture about said outer cannula distal end, said hollow inner cannula being disposed within at least a portion of said hollow outer cannula while permitting aspiration through said outer and inner suction apertures, along said continuous passageway and out of said outlet port;

said hollow inner cannula being operably associatable with said reciprocation means, and said hollow outer cannula being maintainable stationary with respect to said hand-holdable housing, so as to effectuate relative sliding movement between said hollow inner and outer cannulas when said reciprocation means reciprocates, so that the location of aspiration through said outer and inner suction apertures is periodically displaced; and

electro-cauterizing means associated with said hollow inner and outer cannulas, for conducting radio-frequency power signals along said hollow inner and outer cannulas and effecting coagulation of protein molecules within the tissue being aspirated through said outer and inner suction apertures.

Claim 2 (original): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 1, wherein said hollow outer cannula further comprises an outer cannula base extending from said outer cannula proximal end and being adapted for releasably connecting with said hand-holdable housing,

wherein said hollow inner cannula is operably associatable with said reciprocation means by way of an actuation means disposed in said hand-holdable housing and reciprocable by said reciprocation means, and

wherein said hollow inner cannula further includes an inner cannula base from which said outlet port extends and through which said continuous passageway passes, and wherein said hollow outer cannula further comprises an outer cannula base which extends from said proximal end of said hollow outer cannula and is adapted for releasably connecting to said hand-holdable housing.

Claims 3-8 (not presented)

Claim 9 (currently amended): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 2, wherein said hollow outer cannula is electrically non-conductive and includes a cauterizing electrode provided about said outer suction aperture; and

wherein said hollow inner cannula is electrically conductive and the inner cannula base of said hollow inner cannula includes electrical means for conducting said RF power signal from a first one of said RF power supply terminals in said powered liposuction device to said hollow inner cannula.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 9, wherein said electrical means comprises a device inserted within the outer cannula base of said hollow outer cannula and having an electrical contact element for conducting said RF power signal from said RF power supply terminals to said inner cannula while said hollow inner cannula is being reciprocated within said hollow outer cannula.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 9, wherein the outer cannula base of said hollow outer cannula includes an electrical contact element for establishing electrical contact with one said RF power supply terminals ~~with~~ in said powered liposuction device.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 2, wherein said hollow inner cannula is electrically non-conductive and includes a cauterizing electrode provided about said inner suction aperture and the inner cannula base of said hollow inner cannula includes an electrical connection element for electrically connecting said cauterizing electrode with a first one of said RF power supply terminals within said powered liposuction device; and

said outer cannula is electrically conductive and the outer cannula base portion of said hollow outer cannula includes electrical means for maintaining said hollow outer cannula in electrical contact with a second one of said RF power supply terminals conducting RF power signals to said hollow outer cannula.

Claim 13 (original): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 12, wherein said electrical means comprises an electrically conductive element embedded within the outer cannula base of said hollow outer cannula.

Claim 14 (original): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 2, wherein said hollow inner and outer cannulas are both electrically non-conductive;

wherein said hollow outer cannula includes an outer cauterizing electrode provided about said outer suction aperture and first conductive means for conducting RF power signal from the outer cannula base of said hollow outer cannula to said first cauterizing electrode; and

wherein said hollow inner cannula includes an inner cauterizing electrode provided about said inner suction aperture and second conductive means for conducting said RF power signal from said inner cannula base of said hollow inner cannula to said inner cauterizing electrode.

Claim 15 (original): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 14, wherein the outer cannula base of said hollow outer cannula includes a first electrical contact element connected to said first conductive means for contacting a first one of said power supply terminals in said powered liposuction device; and wherein the inner cannula base of said hollow inner cannula

includes a second electrical contact element connected to said second conductive means for contacting a second one of said power supply terminals in said powered liposuction device.

Claim 16 (original): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 15, wherein said first electrical contact element is embedded within the outer cannula base of said hollow outer cannula; and wherein said second electrical contact element is embedded within the inner cannula base of said hollow inner cannula.

Claim 17 (original): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 2, wherein said outer suction aperture is elongated in the longitudinal direction of said hollow inner cannula.

Claim 18 (original): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 2, wherein said hand-holdable housing further includes a cannula cavity of cylindrical geometry, and said inner cannula base comprises a first cylindrical structure capable of being slidably received within at least a first portion of said cannula cavity, and wherein a notch means is formed in said first cylindrical structure and is adapted for releasably engaging with said actuation means.

Claim 19 (original): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 18, wherein said outer cannula base comprises a second cylindrical structure capable of being received within at least a second portion of said cannula cavity, and wherein a flange portion extends from said second cylindrical structure and is adapted for releasably engaging with a matched recess formed in said cannula cavity.

Claims 20-21 (not presented)

Claim 22 (original): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 2, which further comprises a cannula keying means for maintaining said hollow inner and outer cannulas in a predetermined axial alignment so that said outer suction aperture is in registration with at least a portion of said inner elongated suction aperture as said hollow inner and outer cannulas are caused to undergo said slidable movement.

Claim 23 (original): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 2, which comprises first, second and third pairs of said outer and inner suction apertures, each said pair of suction apertures being at least partial registration when said hollow inner cannula is inserted within said hollow outer cannula.

Claims 24-25 (not presented)

Claim 26 (original): The electro-cauterizing cannula assembly of claim 1, wherein said hollow outer cannula further comprises an outer cannula base extending from said outer cannula proximal end and releasably connectable to said hand-holdable housing,

wherein when said electro-cauterizing cannula assembly is connected to said hand-supportable housing, said hollow inner cannula is operably associated with said reciprocation means by way of an actuation means disposed in said hand-holdable housing and reciprocable by said reciprocation means, and

wherein said hollow inner cannula base further including said outlet port and said continuous passageway, and wherein said hollow outer cannula further comprises an outer cannula base which extends from the proximal end of said hollow inner cannula and is releasably connectable to said hand-holdable housing.

Claims 27-43 (canceled)

Claims 44-45 (not presented)

Claims 46-47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (not presented)

Claims 49-51 (canceled)

Claim 52 (not presented)

Claims 53-61 (canceled)